

Political Science & International Relations Crash Course & Test Series - 2020

Test 03

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 250

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Test Date 17.11.2020
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UPSC Roll No 1531584

Instructions:

1. There are EIGHT questions divided in TWO SECTIONS and candidate has to attempt five questions in all.
2. Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any three are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.
3. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of the booklet in the space provided.
5. Content of the answer is more important than its length.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
7. All parts of the question should be written at one place itself.
8. Write the test in exam atmosphere.
9. **Filling all the details in BLOCK LETTERS is mandatory.**

S. No.	a	b	c	d	e	Total
1						
2				X	X	
3				X	X	
4				X	X	
5						
6				X	X	
7				X	X	
8				X	X	
Grand Total						



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

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	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Understanding of Questions					
Structure & Flow					
(a) Introduction					
(b) Conclusion					
(c) Overall					
Subject Knowledge					
Presentation					
(a) Underline					
(b) Paragraph					
(c) Overall					
Overall Remarks:					
Dear Student,					

All the best for next test..!!!					



Que.1(a)

Difference in pressure group politics in developed and developing countries.

10 Marks.

pressure groups are informal/formal organisations which use various technique to influence govt policies without actively taking part in electoral processes.

Pressure groups have been fundamental feature of both eastern and western countries.

However, they vary in their structure and mode of functioning in following way:

- ① In Global north, pressure groups are more institutionalised than south due to high maturity of democracy in developed nation. In Global south, pressure groups are more informal.



② In Global north, Pressure Groups have less influence due to minimal state, while they are much stronger in Global South due to overdeveloped state

③ Pressure groups in North are arranged on ideological lines as opposed to developing nation

④ There is more internal democracy and financial accountability in Pressure groups of developed Nations. This feature is missing in Global South

⑤ Developing nations have charismatic leader based Pressure groups as opposed to issue based in North.

Hence, Despite differences, Pressure groups are called "invisible empires" due to their importance

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.1(b)

Limitations of systems approach to international politics.

10 Marks.

system approach in international politics emerged with behavioural revolution. It provided systemic explanation of world politics and way of interaction between different actors.

The prominent thinkers in system approach are Morton Kaplan and Immanuel Wallerstein.

Kaplan gave ten models of international system based on patterns of interaction between states.

Immanuel Wallerstein, a marxist sociologist tried to explain continuous drain of wealth from global south to global north using system approach.



Limitations

- ① It presents the events of world happening in a over-simplistic manner,
- ② It provides only general explanation but no systematic theory
- ③ Feminists criticise it for ignoring the role of exploitative gender relations
- ④ It remains ambiguous and vague
- ⑤ It ignores the role of domestic factors and ~~integral~~ interactions

Despite limitations, system approach is significant for understanding international politics from theoretical point of view.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.1(c)

Democratic Peace Theory.

10 Marks.

Democratic peace theory is based on belief of Republican liberalism that there is intrinsic link between peace and democracy. It is evident in writings of Immanuel Kant and Tocquille.

Democracies are more peaceful than Authoritarian states because latter are immune from 'public fury'.

Moreover, history shows that there have been no instances of war between democracies.

Moreover, in democratic countries, people have "no stomach for war", hence public pressure resists states from going to war.

Democratic country



generally use peaceful means like talks to iron out differences.

However, Realists have criticised Democratic peace theorists that states are states and calculation of power determines peace not political system. Moreover, the definition of democracy remains open ended and ambiguous. Further, there have been many instances of war between democratic-authoritarian states. (Bernard Brodie) says that Nuclear weapons have prevented war not democracies.

Although democracy ensure peace, but it should not become tool in hand of western nations to promote democracies under public pressure.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.1(d)

India's prospects in APEC.

10 Marks.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation is a regional trade bloc and based on functionalist idea of international cooperation.

APEC is one of the oldest trade bloc in world and represents around 20% of global trade. Its prominent members include - Japan, Singapore, US, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc.

India, being the third largest economy in world (PPP), still is not the part of APEC.

Many scholars are advocating to join APEC for greater economic benefit that free trade brings with it.



However, India still has concern on issues such as - anti-dumping, countervailing duty, market access in dairy and meat products, agricultural products etc.

India is apprehensive of cheaper imports flooding its market and harming domestic industries. India's recent withdrawal from RCEP is also seen in this context.

Although, free trade do brings benefit as highlighted by Jagdish Bhagwati but the decision to join trade blocs should be based on empirical cost-benefit analysis and national interest.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.1(e)

Strengths of Political-sociology approach.

10 Marks.

Political sociology approach is one of the approach in comparative politics to analyse political processes between countries.

Political sociology focuses on interaction between politics and society. It studies phenomena such as political parties, political movements, voting behaviour, etc.

According to Durkheim, the strength and relevance of political sociology approach are

- ① It is more dynamic and flexible than approaches such as institutionalism
- ② It provides important insights not only into political institutions but also political processes.



- ③ It studies both formal and informal processes
- ④ studies by divergence on political parties have provided important insights into study of developing areas
- ⑤ It uses many data tools and thus can be empirically verified.

Despite the strengths of political sociology approach, there have been calls to separate politics from sociology. (Theda Skocpol) calls "to bring back the state". This led to the rise of Neo-institutionalism.

Despite limitations, political sociology still remains important approach to study comparative politics in dynamic way

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.4(a)

"It is time to stop thinking of EU as a single union. It contains multitude." Comment. Do you think, there has always been a contradiction between transnationalism and nationalism, inherent in the idea of EU?

20 Marks

European Union, according to "Robert Cooper", represents a "post modern state" which has evolved beyond power politics towards rule of law and stability. It comprises of 27 members and resembles most successful model of ~~EURO~~ Regional integration.

It was inspired by Kant's dream of "perpetual peace" in Europe.

Despite Europe being "idol" of Regional cooperation, it is struggling with various issues. One of the issues is "EU fraternity" versus "Nationalism".

This is well evident in various recent events.

Recent 'BREXIT' was most profound example of nationalism triumphing Regionalism in European Union. It has strengthened more dissenting voices.

Moreover, there have been differences on Refugee issue. French president Macron calls other European nations to accept more refugees. But there is no agreement on it.

European Green Deal is also in danger due to differences among members. Eastern European members like Poland are heavily dependent on Coal and has declined to reduce Carbon Emission.

Further, European countries are divided on EU Budget. Less developed southern and

Eastern countries are asking more developed Northern Europe to increase their share of contribution

There have been conflict between Eastern and western Europe on democracy and rule of law. Countries like France allege that Eastern Europe has less respect for democracy and rule of law. This was well evident during recent EU Covid recovery deal fiasco.

Furthermore, European Union is divided between Europhobic v/ Europhilic nations ; Old Europe v/s New Europe ; South v/s North Europe.

European Union also failed to solve sovereign debt crisis in Greece which led to



much criticism and resentment.

Thus, European Union is struggling with contradiction between transnationalism and nationalism. This is why, Harsh Pant calls EU as 'pale shadow' of its glorious past.

Although the dream of Victor Hugo of "arms falling off the hands in Europe" has come true, but much needs to be done to formulate an "ever closer Union" which is strong, united internally and a key player on international and Regional forums.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.4(b)

What is new regionalism? Do you think regionalism is the new globalization in the newly emerged global scenario post pandemic?

15 Marks

Regionalism is shared affinity to a 'region' based on some historical, cultural, political factors.

There is emerging trend of 'world of regions' in what Shanki Thapar calls the 'current world disorder'

There are three basis on which regional cooperation are done

① federalism - countries come together to fight common problems.

② functionalism - It is based on the fact that "small area of actions" should be focused first (David Mitrany)

③ Neo-functionalism - it is based on the belief that cooperation on specific areas will "spill over" in other areas.



~~two~~ In current world, there is emergence of "new regionalism" which is based on trade rather political or security cooperation.

There is emergence of Regional trade blocs such as REEP which aims to deepen cooperation in economic field.

Professor Jaydesh bhagwati calls the emergence of new Regional trade blocs as "spaghetti bowl" system where there are multitude of trade blocs with conflicting and contradicting aims, objectives.

In recent times, post COVID crisis, many scholars pointed out the ineffectiveness of United Nations and lack of global cooperation. Stephen Walt comments that Globalisation is heading for



REO in the post pandemic world order
 However, world witnessed many regional cooperation in post pandemic era. SAARC convened ~~series~~ a virtual summit on strategy to fight pandemic. European Union formulated EU covid recovery plan and ASEAN also convened meeting.

Thus, with globalisation on retreat and emergence of protectionist tendencies around world, it seems that regionalism is the new globalisation.

However, scholar like Joseph Nye feel that pandemic will not end globalisation.

Despite it, Regional cooperation presents new avenues in post pandemic world order.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.4(c)

Terrorism is a complex and a highly pervasive global problem. Comment. To what extent international cooperation is crucial in addressing the threat? 15 Marks

Terrorism, in theoretical language, is the use of violent means to attain political goals.

Recent attack on Church in Paris again brought the world's focus on terrorism.

(Complex, Pervasive)

Terrorism is complex problem due to its multi-faceted appearance.

It may appear in form of Islamist Jihadi attack or lone wolf attack. It can take form of attack against state institutions or attack on public.

Moreover, many countries are using proxy terror groups in other



countries to destabilise them. eg - Jarish
e Mohammad. Many middle Eastern
nations such as Syria have become
'living laboratories' for such experiment.

Terrorism is very pervasive
as it requires concentrated efforts
not only on security but also
on political, economic front.

However, Global cooperation
can do a lot in combating terrorism.
As PM Modi says that there should
be ~~no~~^{no} difference between good and
bad terrorism and whole world
should stand united against it.

FATF, UNSC resolution
1267, SCO counter terrorism task force
are some important tools of
international cooperation to fight
terrorism.



However, there is lack of consensus among countries on terrorism. Realists say that countries promote their national interests using any means. Noam Chomsky categorically says that United States has used terror means to secure oil supplies in Middle East.

Hence, the cooperation is difficult but not impossible. The elimination of ISIS is successful example of international cooperation.

World leaders should take steps towards adopting comprehensive convention on terrorism in UN to start a new lead, because terrorism, as PM Modi puts, is not enemy of any nation, but of humanity.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.5(a)

Give the relevance of NAM in 21st century.

10 Marks

Non aligned movement used to denote the foreign policy of those members in cold war era who did not choose sides with any of superpower and maintained autonomy.

However, in Post Cold war Era, many scholars are questioning the relevance of NAM on three grounds-

- ① NAM has already achieved objectives
- ② NAM is ineffective
- ③ NAM has no relevant in multipolar world.

Despite this, the main essence of NAM- strategic autonomy, still remains in the new world order.

Relevance

- ① NAM is still necessary to promote objective of universal, verifiable nuclear disarmament



- ① NAM still provides voice to many small nations which otherwise would not be heard
- ② NAM is essential for global cooperation against "tragedy of common"
- ③ NAM is essential to demand reforms in multilateral institutions like UN and IMF, WTO.

Moreover, the world is heading towards what Henry Kissinger calls 'a new cold war' between US-China.

Hence, NAM still remains relevant in maintaining strategic autonomy in coming turbulent years

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.5(b)

What are the weaknesses of traditional approach to comparative politics?
10 Marks

Comparative politics is the sub-discipline of political science. It deals with comparison between political systems, processes of different nations.

The earliest proponent was Aristotle who compared 158 constitutions to formulate his theory of constitution.

The works of Aristotle, Montesquieu, Machiavelli is considered as traditional comparative politics. It also comprises of institutionalism.

Traditional comparative politics focused on understanding institutions, structures of different countries. There was no or very little comparison between countries. Hence, traditional comparative politics is criticised by Macridis.



as legalistic-formalistic, parochial, historical, speculative.

David Easton criticises it as 'intellectually impoverished'. Other scholars criticise it for being non-comparative and Eurocentric.

Moreover, it focused only on status quo and did not explain why systems change. It was also found inadequate for studying newly emerging nations.

Hence, weaknesses of traditional comparative politics gave rise to behavioural approaches like system (Easton).

Still, it remains important for providing base to comparative politics and enriching it with new discourses.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.5(c)

Discuss the impact of pandemic on the nature of states in advanced industrial societies.

10 Marks

Advanced industrial society, also called global north, are ~~formate~~ imperial power and have advanced industrial base.

Studying nature of state in global north has always been pastime for comparative political theorists.

Pandemic has brought significant change into nature, structure and function of these states.

Stephen Walt writing in foreign policy says that post pandemic 'big brother' will

be watching us. Society would be less free, less open and less .. prosperous. States which gain immense power during pandemic to control citizens' life may not relinquish those power. State will become powerful and nationalism will replace globalisation.



John Ikenberry says that states will become more nationalist initially but eventually, new internationalism will emerge.

Other scholars feel that states in authoritarian political systems will weaken due to public fury. Many believe that, there will be greater federal devolution of power in post pandemic advanced countries.

Human rights activists say that state may violate human rights norms under veil of combating pandemic.

Thus, it is very clear that pandemic has made states stronger and powerful in advanced industrial nations

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.5(d)

Give your views on National interest as a "pseudo theory".

10 Marks

National interests is most important concept in realist lexicon.

In layman term, it means promoting nation's interests on regional and international forums.

The term National interest remains very ambiguous and different countries define it differently according to their comfort.

National interest, according to realist, is principle cause of action in global politics. It provides continuity and direction to the policy of a particular state.

However, due to the ambiguity, Nation interest is often categorised as "pseudo theory" by its critics.



Why called pseudo theory

- it is vague, ambiguous
- this term is used by countries to pursue 'objectionable' aims (war on terror by US)
- this term remains undertheorised.

Despite its criticism, National interests still remain most fundamental determinant of country's foreign policy. It is used to navigate the ~~into~~ chaotic world order and provides continuity to policies of a nation.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.5(e)

What are the salient features of NAFTA 2.0?

10 Marks

North Atlantic's free trade association is a regional trade bloc among North American countries such as US, Canada, Mexico.

Recently, United states under president Trump withdrew from NAFTA on the ground that it harms American industry, especially in automobile, dairy and results in job losses. His "America first" strategy focused on relocating manufacturing supply lines in US.



Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.7(a)

Feminist theory of international relations explores gender as a site of power and social interaction. Comment. Do you subscribe to the view that the neglect of feminist perspective is a real challenge in conceptualizing the notion of security in international politics?

20 Marks

Feminist perspective in international relations was first introduced by J. Ann Tickner ("Gender in International Relations") and contributed significantly in a 'fourth debate' in international relations.

Cynthia Enloe in "Banana Beaches and Bares" highlights the gendered discourses in international relations. She says that "women question" is missing in dominant international relation discourses.

feminists focus on how dominant theories represent masculinist view of global politics and power.



Feminists specifically challenge the dominant discourse on security and point out the neglect of feminist perspective.

Traditional notion of security focused on securing national ~~security~~ integrity through war and confrontations.

Feminists say that this 'masculinist' interpretation of security acts against interests of women.

They introduce multidimensional view of security which includes questions on violence on women as well as growing threats like sex slavery.

They opine that difference between peace and war is begun as peace doesn't guarantee security to women.



Difference feminists point out that wars, conflicts happen due to domination of men in politico-military ranks. Men see world in competitive and rivalry terms, so they are more prone to wage wars.

Feminists also burst the 'protection myth' that men as warriors are designed to protect the vulnerable. They also question the image of 'heroic warrior' and cultivation of 'manly virtues' during military training.

Another major argument is that women are less attracted to wars and are more peace loving. Hence, masculinist society would be peaceful than patriarchal.



Moreover, Cynthia Enloe in her book, Banana, Bases and Beaches highlights the 'prostitution at military bases' and 'women as war booty' in modern war.

Thus, the neglect of feminist perspective in formulating notion of security has led to less focus on increased violence and vulnerability of women in conflict prone area.

Feminists, ~~to~~ uncovering the 'gendered notion of security', thus focus on including multi-dimensional view of security which ensures secure life to women both at 'peace stations' and 'conflict prone areas'

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.7(b)

Post COVID-19 world needs globalization based on fairness, equality and humanity. Discuss. 15 Marks

Since the end of 1990s, there has been triumph of neo liberal globalisation. It is described by Kenichi Ohama as "borderless world", Thomas Friedman as "world is flat" and Marshall McLuhan as "global village".

The thickening web of interdependence has integrated whole world in unprecedented manner and brought many benefits to countries around the world.

Both South and North witnessed increased job creation, faster economic growth, reduction in absolute poverty and rise in entrepreneurship.

However, the flow of "Mad money" as Suman strange puts, created instability in developing nation. Ramesh Thakur says that globalisation increased inequality, depleted natural resources and increased social conflict.

Marxist dependency school highlighted continuous drain of wealth from rich to poor nations.

The biggest shock to globalisation came with COVID crisis. Countries increasingly turned inwards and world witnessed "vaccine nationalism" rather global cooperation. Countries of global south were most affected.

In this context P M modi called for globalisation with a humane face, which focuses on humanity rather, accumulation of money.
than



Post pandemic globalisation must give greater voice to Global south in WTO, IMF and World Bank. Negotiations should take place keeping in mind the concerns of global south.

Abraham Newman in "foreign policy" calls for "new globalisation" which focuses on health, human rights, workers welfare. Developing nations should be given right to interfere when free trade goes against their interests.

It should be based on active cooperation among countries on common issues and tact acceptance not to exploit vulnerability for private benefits.

It is said that ^{the} only constant is change and thus globalisation should also modify itself in post pandemic world towards more equality and fairness.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.7(c)

Do you think that the world is witnessing the end of Pax Americana and the beginning of Pax Sinica?

15 Marks

The end of Cold War in 1990 resulted into America becoming unquestioned hegemon and superpower of world. It was the beginning of Pax Americana.

thirty years later, various scholars such as Kishore Mahbubani ('Hai Chinawon') says that Pax Sinica is replacing Pax Americana.

Present world is going through the flux. America under President Trump followed policy of "America first" and withdrew from many multilateral institutions such as UNESCO, Paris deal.

With US withdrawing from its leadership role, there ~~to~~ is simultaneous rise of China in various spheres.



Kishore Mahbubani says that world is witnessing 'US-centric globalisation' being replaced by Sinic-centric globalisation.

Increasing political, military and strategic power of china through initiatives like Belt and Road Initiatives, AIIB, "checkbook diplomacy" has put questionmark on US leadership in world.

However, there are many scholars who disagree with Pax Sinica replacing Pax Americana.

Joseph Nye in "Is American Century Over" says that US hegemony will not end in next 30 years.

China is still much behind US in geopolitical terms. America still is military superpower in world, controls institutions like IMF, WB.

America is witnessing integrated growth as opposed to China's growth in specific areas.

~~USA~~ He also mentions that China's softpower, especially in post pandemic world is at all time low.

Hence, it would be immature to say that Pax Americana is being replaced by Pax Sinica.

However, there is no doubt that China is challenging US power in all sphere and it has led to, what stephen walt calls, 'new cold war'!

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	

Que.8(a)

Discuss the salient arguments of structural realists. Highlight the post-modernist critique of structuralism. 20 Marks

Realism enjoys the status of meta narrative among various theories of international relations.

Realism seeks to explain the power seeking behaviour of states in international arena by focusing both on structural and non structural factors.

It is considered as "timeless truth" because it offers a kind of manual to statesmen to navigate through anarchical world order.

Earliest Realist ~~works~~ ^{ideas} were first found in the works of Kautilya, Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau.

However, the ^{first} modern contribution to realism is attributed to John Morgenthau.



Morgenthau says that states urge for power can be explained through human nature.

As opposed to classical realism of Morgenthau, Structural realism focuses more on structure of international politics. It disagrees with inductive approach of Morgenthau.

According to structural realists such as Kenneth Waltz, the root cause of conflictual relation between states lies in hierarchical and anarchical nature of world.

It is due to anarchy, states take steps to increase their security. This leads to security dilemma and arm race.

According to Waltz, in the anarchical structure of world

politics, Balance of power naturally emerges even without initiative by statesmen.

Within structural realism, one group led by Mearsheimer believe that states are power maximiser because highest power guarantees highest security.

While, other - defensive realists led by Waltz believe that states are security maximiser.

Despite: Realism's enormous contribution in explaining witty-gritty of world politics, it has been criticised from various theoretical perspectives.

Post Modernists are fiercely critical of structural realism.



Post modernists say that there can be no timeless truth as claimed by realists. It depends upon the interpretation by the subjects.

Structure of international politics is not fixed and it changes with time. Moreover, there have been many instances of global cooperation which is ignored by Realists.

Despite limitation, Realism still remains much significant in Today's world. As (Stephen Walt) puts, in post-pandemic world, states will become strong and inward looking → strengthening the realist arguments.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.8(b)

Do you think that the balance of Power is an ambiguous concept?
Examine the relevance of Balance of Power in the 20th century.

Balance of power is one of the ^{15 Marks} oldest concept of realist lexicon. In the East, Kautilya advised 'vijigishu' to form coalition with ~~at~~ mitra, udaina, Madhyama to counter ari while in west, Balance of power was fundamental feature of relations among greek city states.

In Modern times, Balance of power means countering an aspiring hegemon by building coalition with likeminded partners.

Despite its importance, Balance of power has been interpreted differently by different theoretical perspective and thus remains ambiguous.

Realists consider, Balance of power as important in maintaining peace, stability in Bipolar world.



while (liberals) criticise it ~~as~~ for promoting war and conflict.

(Social constructivists) say that Balance of power does not depend on power calculation but on dominant discourses and the pattern of interactions. (Mehru) also called it "new state of affairs". Thus, Balance of power remains ambiguous concept.

In 20th century, many scholars have raised questions on relevance of Balance of power ~~to~~ due to presence of Unipolar world order. Liberal internationalists say that it has no relevance in post cold war Era.

(Bernard Brodie) says that countries should go for acquiring nuclear weapons rather than Balance of power as former is better guarantor for peace.



Balance of power has been modified to include "asymmetrical balancing" due to emergence of various non-state actors.

Similarly, Cohane and Nye say that Balance of power has little relevance in the age of complex interdependence.

However, Balance of power ~~is~~ still remains relevant in today's world. QUAD is ~~now~~ considered by many scholars as balancing coalition against China.

Moreover, with the advent of New Cold war, the classical age of Balance of power can still return in 20th century.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	



Que.8(c)

Do you think nuclear deterrence is a myth and there is no realistic way to protect ourselves against deliberate or inadvertent use of nuclear weapons?

15 Marks

Nuclear deterrence is a strategy aimed to prevent attack by enemy country by emphasising upon likely nuclear retaliation.

It is based upon the theory of Mutually assured destruction and requires second strike capability. Realists like John Mearshman advocate limited nuclear proliferation to maintain stability and avoid war.

Nuclear deterrence assumes that actors are rational and would get deterred by the likely Mutually assured destruction.

However, it is not the case always. That is why, many scholars have questioned nuclear deterrent theory.

Concerns have been raised on horizontal nuclear proliferation. Many rogue states like North Korea have developed nuclear weapons. They may not worry about mutually assured destruction.

Moreover, many scholars such as Henry Kissinger has raised concerns on non state actors such as ISIS getting hold of nuclear weapons. In words of Kissinger, there can be no deterrence in world of suicide bombers.

John Mearsheimer has also raised concern on many other countries developing nuclear weapons in multipolar world, which according to him is inherently unstable.



Critics of Nuclear deterrence have termed it "balance of terror" where countries have to live under continuous possibility of nuclear attack.

In modern world, technology to make Nuclear bomb is also easily available which can ^{be} used dangerously ~~used~~ by rouge states/actors.

Despite these concerns, nuclear weapon, according to realists, have prevented any major war since world war 2.

Moreover, Nuclear technology is very sophisticated which reduces the chances of its usage by Non state actors.

Thus, Nuclear weapons are one of the reason that world is peaceful today. However, concentrated efforts must be taken in direction of universal disarmament.

Understanding of Questions	
Structure and Flow	
Subject Knowledge	
Presentation	
Overall Remarks :	